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HP Docket No. 10011462-1

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of determining information regarding at least one physical printer available to receive a print job from a client computer, comprising:
 - calling a general printer driver, through which the print job is passed, directly from an application executed by the client computer;
 - transmitting a query from the client computer to a server via a network for an identification of the at least one available physical printer;
 - receiving the identification of the at least one available physical printer from the server;
 - selecting a single one of the identified physical printers to receive the print job;
 - after the selecting, downloading from the server a file used to convert print data into a format specific to the selected physical printer; and
 - wherein the general printer driver is accessible as a destination printer in a print menu of the application, and wherein the general printer driver is configured to launch a printing agent different from the general printer driver to initiate perform the transmitting when the general printer driver is selected as the destination printer in the print menu.
2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - launching a printing agent with the general printer driver, the printing agent generating the query transmitted from the client computer to the server for the identification.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the general printer driver is a PostScript printer driver.

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4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the downloaded file is a printer description file and the method further comprises overwriting a generic printer description file with the downloaded printer description file and converting application specific data to be printed to printer specific data using the downloaded printer description file.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the generic printer description file is temporarily overwritten until completion of the conversion.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the identification is a list of printers.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the list of printers includes information from one or more of a physical location, a printer capability and a network address.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A client computer adapted for communication with a network, the network having a server and at least one physical printer available to receive a print job, the client computer having a utility for determining information regarding the at least one available physical printer comprising:

means for calling a general printer driver, through which the print job is passed, directly from an application executed by the client computer;

means for transmitting a query to the server via a network for an identification of the at least one available physical printer;

means for receiving the identification of the at least one available physical printer from the server;

means for selecting a single one of the identified physical printers to receive the print job;

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means for, after the selecting, downloading from the server a file used to convert print data into a format specific to the selected physical printer; and

wherein the general printer driver is accessible as a destination printer in a print menu of the application, and wherein the general printer driver is configured to launch a printing agent different from the general printer driver to initiate perform the transmitting when the general printer driver is selected as the destination printer in the print menu.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The client computer according to claim 9, wherein the downloaded file is a printer description file and the client computer further includes means for overwriting a generic printer description file with the downloaded printer description file and means for converting application specific data to be printed to printer specific data using the downloaded printer description file.

12. (Original) The client computer according to claim 11, wherein the generic printer description file is temporarily overwritten until completion of the conversion.

13. (Original) The client computer according to claim 9, wherein the identification of the at least one available printer received from the server is a list of printers including information from one or more of a physical location, a printer capability and a network address.

14. (Previously presented) The client computer according to claim 9, further comprising means for displaying the identification of the at least one available physical printer for a user to select the selected physical printer.

15. (Currently amended) A program embodied in a computer readable medium to

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determine information regarding at least one physical printer available to receive a print job from a client computer, comprising:

general printer driver code accessible as a destination printer in a print menu of an application executed by the client computer, the general printer driver code directly callable by the application when selected as the destination printer in the print menu; and

printing agent code different from and launchable by the general printer driver code, the printing agent code including

code that transmits a query from the client computer to a server via a network for an identification of the at least one available physical printer;

code that receives an identification of the at least one available physical printer from the server; and

code that, after selection of a single one of the identified physical printers to receive the print job, downloads from the server a file used to convert print data into a format specific to the selected physical printer.

16. (Previously presented) The program according to claim 15, wherein the general printer driver code is called from the application in response to a print command entered by a user.

17. (Original) The program according to claim 16, wherein the general printer driver is a PostScript printer driver.

18. (Original) The program according to claim 15, wherein the downloaded file is a printer description file and the program further comprises code that overwrites a generic printer description file with the downloaded printer description file so that a printer driver can convert application specific data to be printed to printer specific data using the downloaded printer description file.

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19. (Original) The program according to claim 18, wherein the generic printer description file is temporarily overwritten until completion of the conversion.

20. (Previously presented) The program according to claim 15, wherein the identification of the at least one available physical printer received from the server is a list of printers.

21. (Original) The program according to claim 20, wherein the list of printers includes information from one or more of a physical location, a printer capability and a network address.

22. (Previously presented) The program according to claim 15, further comprising code that displays the identification of the at least one available printer for a user to select the selected physical printer.

23. (Currently amended) A program embodied in a computer readable medium for execution by a server to enable a client computer to determine information regarding at least one physical printer available to receive a print job from the client computer, comprising:

code that receives a query from the client computer via a network for an identification of the at least one available physical printer, the query initiated by an application executed by the client computer directly calling a general printer driver through which the print job is passed, the general printer driver accessible as a destination printer in a print menu and configured to launch a printing agent different from the general printer driver to initiate the query when the general printer driver is selected as the destination printer in the print menu;

code that transmits an identification of the at least one available physical printer to the client computer; and

code that, after selection of a single one of the identified physical printers to receive the print job, transmits a file to the client computer, the file used to convert print data into a format

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specific to the selected physical printer.

24. (Original) The program according to claim 23, wherein the downloaded file is a printer description file.

25. (Previously presented) The program according to claim 23, wherein the identification of the at least one available physical printer is a list of printers.

26. (Original) The program according to claim 25, wherein the list of printers includes information from one or more of a physical location, a printer capability and a network address.

27. (Previously presented) The program according to claim 23, further comprising code that polls network devices to determine the identification of the at least one available physical printer.

28-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently amended) A method of determining information regarding at least one printer available to receive a print job from a client computer, comprising:

calling a general printer driver, through which the print job is passed, directly from an application executed by the client computer;

transmitting a query from the client computer to a server via a network for an identification of the at least one available printer;

receiving an the identification of the at least one available printer from the server;

downloading a file from the server used to convert print data into a format specific to a selected one of the at least one available printer; and

wherein the general printer driver is accessible as a destination printer in a print menu of

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the application, and wherein the application is configured to launch a printing agent different from the general printer driver to initiate perform the transmitting when the general printer driver is selected as the destination printer in the print menu.

31. (Currently amended) A method of determining information regarding at least one printer available to receive a print job from a client computer, comprising:

providing a general printer driver on the client computer accessible as a destination printer in a print menu of an application executed by the client computer;

selecting the general printer driver as the destination printer directly from an-the application executed by the client computer;

responsive to the selecting, launching from the general printer driver a printing agent on the client computer, the printing agent different from the general printer driver;

transmitting a query from the printing agent to a server via a network for an identification of the at least one available printer;

receiving at the client computer an identification of the at least one available printer from the server in response to the query;

selecting, via the general printer driver, a single one of the at least one available printer to print the print job; and

after selecting the printer, downloading from the server to the client computer a file configured to convert the print job into a format specific to the selected printer; and

printing the print job on the selected printer using the general printer driver and the downloaded file.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, comprising:

using the downloaded file, converting the print data into the format specific to the selected one of the at least one available printer; and

printing the converted print data on the selected physical printer.

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33. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the transmitting is performed after the calling.

34. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the selecting is performed by a user.

35. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein the transmitting is performed after the calling.

36. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein the transmitting is performed after the selecting the general printer driver.